

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the covering layer comprises (a) a thermoplastic polymer or a photopolymerizable resin and (b) a composite material, consistent with the description from page 3, line 29, through page 4, line 13, and page 7, line 26, through page 8, line 13. In other words, the covering layer comprises (without excluding additional, unrecited elements) the particulate composite material as a filler and a thermoplastic polymer or photopolymerizable resin as a matrix.

In view of amended Claim 1, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, first paragraph, rejection at Section II, page 2, of the Action.

Claims 12-14 have been amended to clarify that at least one layer of the protective coating, outer sheath or insulating covering is constituted essentially by the thermoplastic polymer or photopolymerizable resin (as a matrix) and the particulate composite material (as a filler). As described at page 2, lines 20-27, the term "constituted essentially by" means that the at least one layer of the protective coating, outer sheath or insulating covering can also have smaller quantities of various additives.

In view of amended Claims 12-14, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection at Section VI, page 3, of the Action.

Claim 15 has been amended to positively recite steps for a method of manufacturing a composite material for a cable. Furthermore, the meanings of "treating" and "compatible" are clear and definite when properly construed according to the teachings of the underlying disclosure. Applicants specifically refer to the description at page 5, lines 15-22, and page 6, line 25, through page 7, line 5.

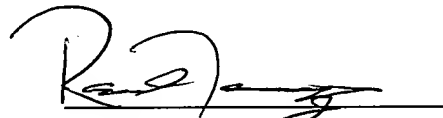
In view of amended Claim 15, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the §112, second paragraph, rejection at Section VII, page 3, of the Action.

AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/559,595

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 25, 2003